Romanus of Condat

(c. 390 - 460)

BRIEFING

Romanus of Condat (also known in English as **Saint Roman**; French: *Romain de Condat* or *Romain du Jura)* (c. 390 – c. 463) is a saint of the fifth century. At the age of thirty five, he decided to live as a hermit in the area of Condat. His younger brother Lupicinus followed him there. They became leaders of a community of monks that included Eugendus.

Romanus and Lupicinus founded several monasteries. These included Condat Abbey, which was the nucleus of the later town of Saint-Claude, Jura), Lauconne (later Saint-Lupicin, as Lupicinus was buried there), La Balme (Beaume) (later Saint-Romain-de-Roche), where Romanus was buried, and Romainmôtier (*Romanum monasterium*), now in the canton of Vaud in Switzerland.

Romanus was ordained a priest by Hilary of Arles in 444.

SOURCES

Two lives of him are in existence: one by Gregory of Tours in the *Liber vitae patrum* (Mon. Germ. Hist.: Script. Merov., I, 663), and an anonymous *Vita Sanctorum Romani, Lupicini, Eugendi* [ibid., III, 131 sqq.; cf. Benoît, "Histoire de St-Claude", I (Paris, 1890); Besson, "Recherches sur les origines des évêchés de Genève, Lausanne, et Sion" (Fribourg, 1906), 210 sqq.].